

Amendments to the claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
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19. (canceled)
20. (canceled)
21. (canceled)
22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A spark plug for an internal combustion engine with a combustion chamber, comprising a shell (12), an insulator (16) located in the shell and composed of a sintered ceramic material, as well as a center electrode (18) heat-fused in an insulator, and a terminal stud (22) that have an electrically conductive connection with each other and are located in the insulator,

wherein a cermet (28) abuts the center electrode, wherein the a ceramic phase of which the cermet is composed of the same or a similar material as the insulator, and wherein the a metallic phase of which the cermet is composed of a material having good electrical conductivity, and wherein the cermet is disposed between the center electrode and the terminal stud.

24. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim 4 23, wherein the ceramic phase is composed of Al_2O_3 .

25. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim 2 24, wherein the ceramic phase comprises sintering auxiliary agents.

26. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim 4 23, wherein the metallic phase is composed of a metal from the platinum group that is stable at sintering temperature.

27. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim [4] 26, wherein the metallic phase is composed of platinum or a platinum alloy.

28. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim 4 23, wherein a ceramic granulated material is used to produce the cermet (28), wherein the granules of which the granulated material are provided with a surface coating of the material having good electrical conductivity.

29. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim 6 28, wherein the granulated material has a granule size in ~~the~~ a range between 90 μm and 150 μm .

30. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim 6 28, wherein the material having good electrical conductivity is pulverized, and the individual particles are less than 10 μm in size.

31. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim 4 23, wherein the metallic phase of the cermet constitutes a quantity between 10 and 15 % by volume.

32. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim 4 23, wherein the center electrode (18) has a diameter between 0.3 mm and 0.8 mm.

33. (currently amended) The spark plug according to Claim 4 23, wherein a burn-off resistor (30) is located in the interior of the insulator, wherein a the conductive phase of ~~which~~ the burn-off resistor is composed of carbon.

34. (currently amended) A method for producing a spark plug using the following steps:

- pressing a ceramic material ~~is pressed~~ to form an insulator (16) that is provided with a location hole (36) for a center electrode;
- inserting a center electrode (18) ~~is inserted~~ in the location hole;
- providing a cermet between the center electrode and a terminal stud of the insulator;
- filling and compacting a ceramic granulated material in the insulator, wherein the granules of which the granulated material are provided with a coating of a material having good electric conductivity, ~~is filled in the insulator~~ and compacted;
- sintering the insulator ~~is sintered~~.

35. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 42 34, wherein Al_2O_3 is used as the ceramic material.

36. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 43 35, wherein sintering auxiliary agents are used.

37. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~43~~ 35, wherein Al_2O_3 is used as the material for the insulator.

38. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~42~~ 34, wherein a metal from the platinum group that is stable at sintering temperature is used as the material having good electrical conductivity.

39. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~46~~ 38, wherein platinum or a platinum alloy is used as the material having good electrical conductivity.

40. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~42~~ 34, wherein the granules of the ceramic granulated material are coated with the material having good electrical conductivity by stirring in a diluted suspension.

41. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~42~~ 34, wherein the material having good electrical conductivity is applied to the granules of the granulated material using a binding agent.

42. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~49~~ 41, wherein the binding agent is an organic binding agent.

43. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 42 34, wherein the material having good electrical conductivity is applied to the granules of the granulated material via vapour deposition.

44. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 42 34, wherein the material having good electrical conductivity is applied to the granules of the granulated material via sputtering.